



United Women in Faith

Yadkin Valley District

Western NC Conference

Volume 19 Number 3

July, August, September 2026

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September 20

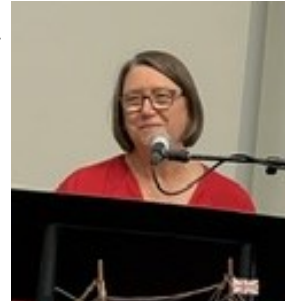


Message from the District President *Jamie Smith*

Greetings United Women in Faith SISTERS,



It was such a pleasure to see many of you at the Conference Spiritual Growth meeting – “Winds of Change”. For those who could not attend, we heard an inspiring message from Rev. Holly McKim, our Mission Study Leader. Spruce Pines UMC where she is pastor was a disaster relief base after Hurricane Helene. They supported many victims and volunteers. Along with provisions of necessities and counseling (or sometimes just listening to those affected) they also served 8,000



meals during three months’ time.



Our Session Leader, Rev. Lucy Robbins delivered messages of hopeful ways we can handle some of the challenges we face due to change. Love boldly, Serve joyfully and Lead courageously were the three sessions topics.

It’s hard to believe it is almost July, and we are into our 3rd quarter of 2026. We have had successful events with good attendance, but we can always do better. Mission Study, Prayer Breakfast and Wear a Hat–Bring a Hat tea were times of learning, worshiping and communing with each other! We are grateful to our hosts for these events, Sherwood Forest, Bunker Hill and Pine Grove. The contributions of our “hands on” items at each meeting were in abundance!

Our next District event will be our Annual Celebration on August 29. Our Vice President Barbara Crotts and her Committee are planning a time together you will not want to miss. You may return the baby bottles you picked up at the tea at this time.



Our Conference Mission u will be August 21-22 at the Catholic Retreat Center in Hickory. Rhita Newcomb is Assistant Dean of our Mission Study. It would be great if our Yadkin Valley members could be well represented in support of our former President!

Continued on page 2

The Conference 2026 Love Offering is "A Gift to Mission in honor of those who are dreaming, believing and doing on behalf of women, children and youth across the world". Your gift can be brought to the Conference Annual Celebration at St. Lukes UMC in Hickory on September 12. If you are unable to attend, you can donate online.

At Annual Conference of Western North Carolina last week, we celebrated 70 years of the ordination of women into our denomination! As Rev. Lucy Robbins said at the Spiritual Growth retreat, and the same messages we heard from our Bishop and others at our Conference last week, we know our women have been Loving Boldly, Serving Joyfully and Leading Courageously across the globe, doing so with the Holy Spirit guiding us for more than 150 years!



I am thankful for all of you and what your Units can do! Because of you we have supplied our local schools with feminine products, we've sent many hygiene kits to the victims of Hurricane Helene, and we have donated hundreds of hats to our local Cancer Services Center. Keep up the support and work you do!

"You were called to freedom, brothers and SISTERS, only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other with love." Galatians 5:13
CEB

Joy & Blessings,

Jamie



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." -1 Peter 4:10

Wow summer is here already and in full blast! It's hard to believe that this year is half gone, seems like only yesterday it was January. I hope you have been spending some time with your family and trying to stay cool as the weather has been so unpredictable.

I'd like to offer you a rewarding way to help others and stay connected to your church and community. Simply by saying "yes" to a position on the United Women in Faith District Team. It gives you the opportunity to relate to some very passionate, talented women that are thriving to empower and build a stronger connection within the churches and communities. It also allows you to share your talents and gifts while building some lasting friendships with some amazing women.

If you are interested or know of someone that might be interested in joining this awesome United Women in Faith District Team, please feel free to contact me at 336-705-9462 or gcaudle01@windstream.net

Blessings,

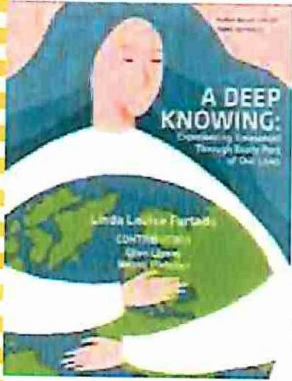
Gail Caudle

Experiencing Emmanuel

Mission u 2026

August 21-22, 2026

Catholic Conference Center, Hickory NC



The Western NC Conference's 2026 Mission u event will be held **Friday and Saturday, August 21-22, 2026** at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory NC.

Rev. Linda Furtado's book, '*A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives*' is an exceptional text to guide our transformative learning experience. Join your fellow WNCC United Women in Faith sisters as we study 6 key topics:

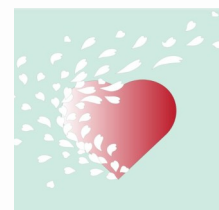
Shiphrah & Puah, Exodus, chapter 1 , **Hagar**, Genesis 16, 21:1-21 , **The Woman at the Well**, John 4:1-42 , **The Book of Esther** , **Our Genealogies & Spiritual Heritage**, Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38 and **Isaiah's Call**, Isaiah 6:1-13.

Mission u is a transformative education program of United Women in Faith. In 2026 we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the FIRST mission us text!!! Mission u is more than a learning experience – it is a place to **build friendships**, become more a way to **bring scripture into context** with today's culture & environment, and **connect spiritually** in a personal way. And of course we will have great food (lots of snacks), meaningful fellowship, songs & singing – and again this year evening vespers and morning meditation. Our study leaders for 2026 are: **Sandra Williamson, Tracey Owens and Joy Prim**. This is an exceptional team of instructors with many years of teaching, lots of LOVE for United Women in Faith – and fun, engaging, and caring personalities! I know you won't want to miss this.

The registration link will be open in July – look for your personal invitation to join us August 21st and 22nd at the Catholic Conference Center, Hickory NC. See you in August, Nancy, Rhita and LaDonna! Questions? ms.nancy.litton@gmail.com



Pictured is part of our group enjoying dinner in the dining room at the Terrace at Lake Junaluska during the Spiritual Growth Retreat in June.



Yadkin Valley UW Faith



Annual Celebration



August 29, 2026

First UMC Mocksville

310 N. Main St.

Mocksville, NC

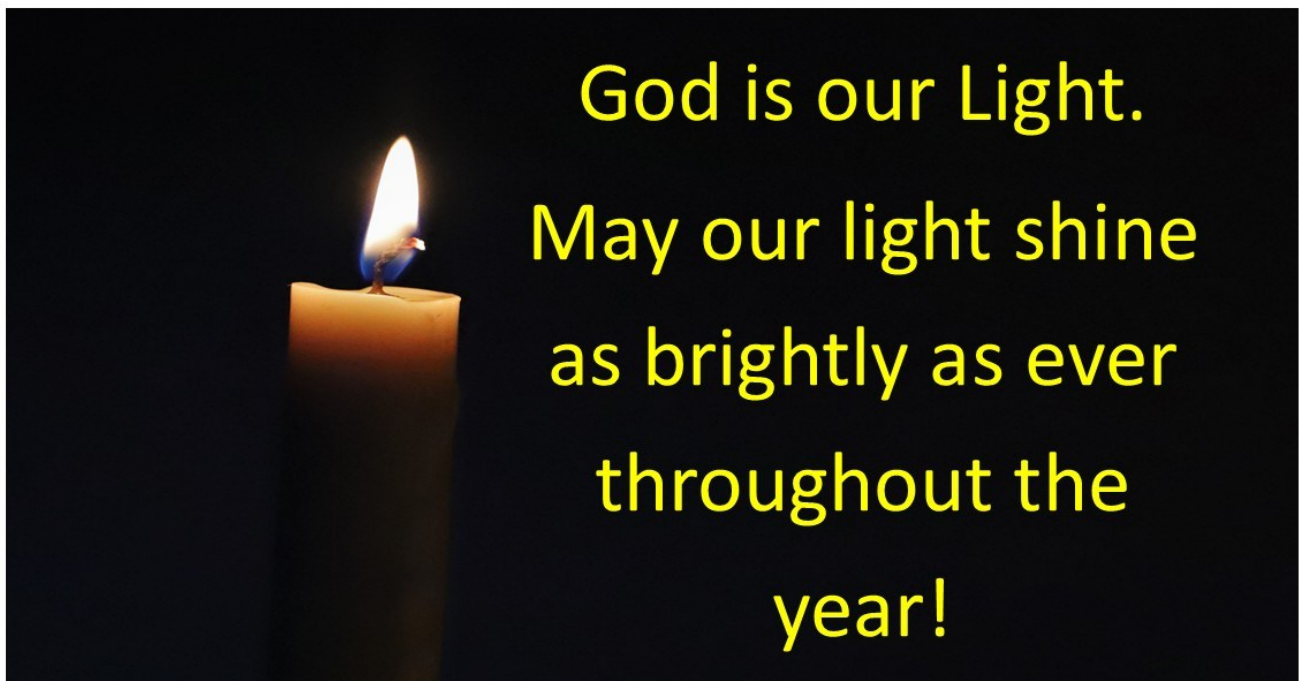
Registration: 9 to 9:45 with light refreshments

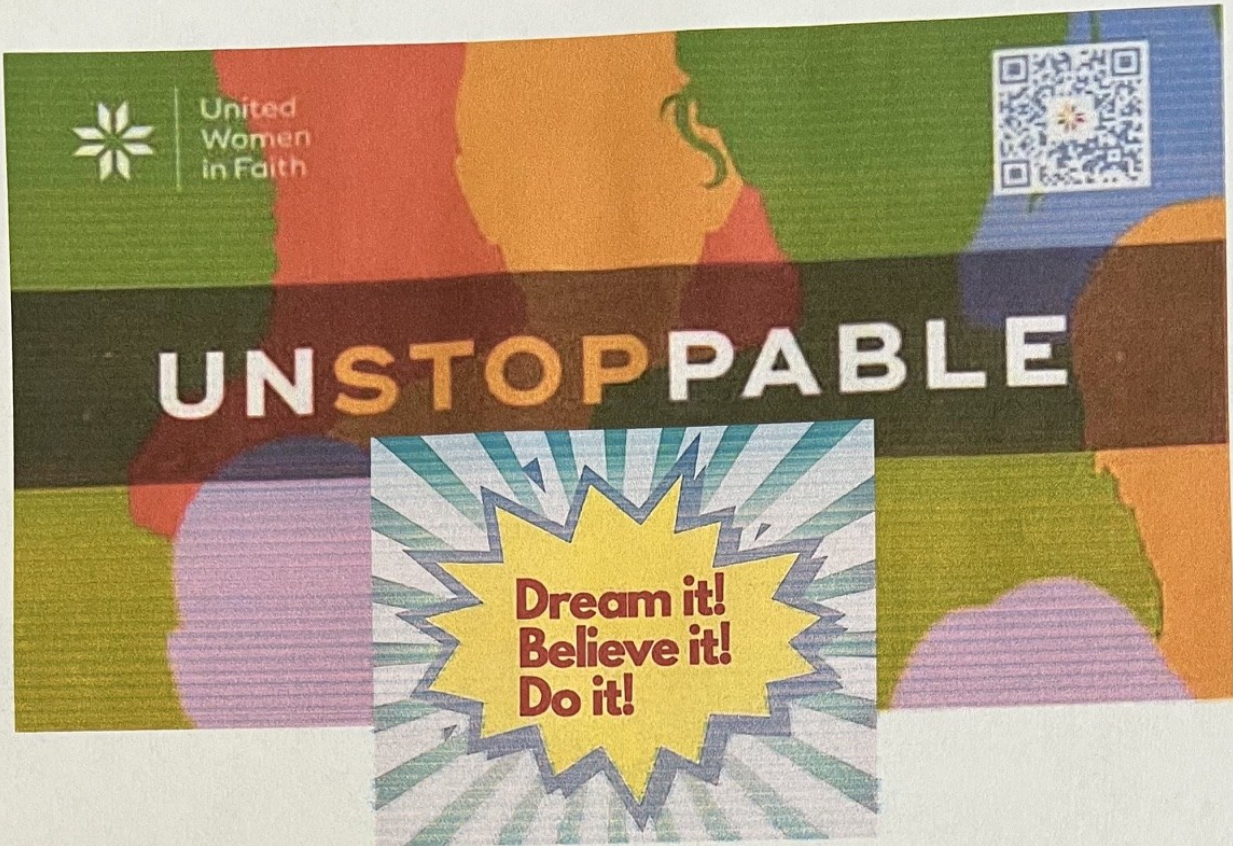
Program: 10:00

Hands on Project: School Supplies

Speaker: Reggie Helton, Development Officer for the Methodist Home for Children.

RSVP: Barbara Crotts, 336-940-8001, call or text.





Western North Carolina Conference

United Women in Faith

53rd Annual Celebration

Celebrating 157 Years in Mission

Saturday, September 12, 2026
St. Luke's UMC, Hickory, NC



GUEST SPEAKER
Emily Jones
National UWFaith
Executive for
Racial Justice





Yadkin Valley District



Energize, Enlighten and Educate

Leadership Development Day

Saturday, October 24, 2026



Trinity UMC King
725 West Dalton Rd.
King, NC 27021

Registration: 9:00 a.m.
Program Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
No Cost to Attend

Event Highlights

Guest speaker from the Art Shac

Hands-on project

Light refreshments

Training

Bingo

Hands-On Project

Please bring gently used hobby items. See the website for a list of items needed.

www.theartshac.org

At this time, holiday décor is not needed.

Special Drawing: One unit will receive the *2027 Daily Prayer Guide and Program Book*.

Join us for fellowship, learning, service, and fun! No charge but let Debra know you are coming,

debralawson083@gmail.com

Hello ladies!

As summer arrives with its familiar *heat* and *humidity*, please remember to take care of yourselves. When I left work yesterday, my car thermometer read 101°F—and it's only June! Stay hydrated, wear cool and comfortable clothing, and be sure to take breaks when spending time outdoors.

The annual *Wear A Hat/Bring A Hat Tea* was, as always, a wonderful and uplifting event. More than 80 Yadkin Valley UWFaith ladies attended, and together we



collected an incredible **501 hats** to donate to *Cancer Services of Winston-Salem*. These hats will provide comfort and encouragement to hundreds of men, women, and children as they navigate their treatment journeys.

Our speakers, *Lisa Dawson & Cheryl Hester*—both cancer survivors—now generously volunteer with *Cancer Services*. They shared

examples of the “comfort” gift bags provided to patients. Each bag is tailored to the individual’s treatment, and nearly every one includes a hat. It was especially moving to learn that many patients, once their treatment is complete, wash and return their chemo caps so others can benefit from the same comfort.



We also heard from *Alicia Flores* of the *Salem Pregnancy Center*, who spoke about the wide range of support offered to expectant and new mothers. This support extends far beyond prenatal care and includes peer counseling, parenting classes, mentoring, and essential items such as diapers, wipes, formula, and clothing.

Once again this year, Yadkin Valley UWFaith is participating in a *Baby Bottle Campaign* to benefit *Salem Pregnancy Center*. Every bottle filled with loose change, cash, or checks helps fund education and practical support for mothers and families in need. If you would like a baby bottle bank, please contact a member of the Executive Team—we are happy to provide one. If you picked one up, return it to the district meeting at First UMC Mocksville on August 29.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt **thanks** to **everyone** who contributed their time, energy, and generosity to make this event such a success. Your support truly makes a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

God bless!
Leslie Porter
MNO Coordinator



\$\$\$ Notes from the Treasurer



“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.”
Proverbs 18:16 (NIV)

Giving engages us with others. Whether it is a monetary gift, spending time with loved ones, sharing produce from the garden, reading to children, or taking homemade food to a friend, giving of ourselves and our resources not only helps others, but it helps the giver as well. It makes our heart smile; it eases our depression; it takes our minds off of the stressful things in our lives. Giving brings us closer to living like Jesus who came to serve others. “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to

God”. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV)

We have had very generous Love Offerings at our district events this year totaling \$2,562.51. Sales of Gift to Mission cards total \$390.00. Cards are an easy way to share joy with others on many different occasions while also raising money for missions. Total Mission Giving paid to WNCC in Q2 was \$14,487.48.

Local Treasurers, your Q3 Remittances are due in by August 24th. You will be receiving a letter from me in early August with additional information. I hope to see many of you at our District Annual Celebration in August! Don't forget to bring those baby bottles back with cash and change inside.

Ashley Perdue

Yadkin Valley District Treasurer



Greeting Sisters in Christ,

We have already passed the half way mark of this year. It has been a beautiful spring and very hot summer. And some of us have experienced a very dry period. The recent rains have revived the earth. Our spiritual life also goes through dry periods. It is in these times we seek to be refreshed and renewed. The Energize, Enlighten, and Educate meeting this year, I hope will help to bring all three. We will learn about our leadership roles, be encouraged, and refreshed for the next coming year. There will be light refreshments, education and training for leadership roles, special music by Darlene and Josh Gardner, a speaker, Bingo, and a meditation to end the program. This year our speaker will be from the Art Shac in Winston-Salem. Our hands on projects will be gently used arts supplies. Look at their website <https://www.theartshac.org> for items they will accept and use. Currently they are not accepting holiday décor. **ANDDDD** one unit in our district will receive the 2027 Daily Prayer Guide and Program Booklet. See flyer for more information. Look forward to seeing you there.

Debra Lawson

Leadership Development

Isaiah 40:31 “but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Greeting my sisters,

As summer approaches, I am reminded of the scripture Ecclesiastes 3:1, to everything there is a season. Summer brings change: temperatures are warmer, the days are longer, and there are more outdoor activities. While all of this is true, I am also reminded of the theme from the Spiritual Growth retreat, "Winds of Change". Those who attended the retreat learned that change comes with disruption, reflection, and transformation. The Spiritual Growth Retreat was beautiful. Our worship leaders, Rev. Dr. Lucy Robbins and Rev. Holly McKim, both delivered powerful messages that had an impact on my soul. There were breakout sessions, that gave women time to reflect and learn new ways of dealing with change. While we all know that change can be hard, it can also be thought of as a new opportunity. Whatever changes you may experience, ask the Lord to guide you and things will work out for your good.



This picture was taken at the Terrace Hotel at Lake Junaluska at the end of the Spiritual Growth Retreat.

The Prayer Breakfast at Bunker Hill in April was well attended and was enjoyed by all. Thanks to our host, Bunker Hill UMC and thanks to our speaker, Darlene McClendon, the theme was Practicing Hope.



The special music was by the Brooks Temple Choir.

Blessings,

Berthina Thomas

Spiritual Growth





Ladies.....Good Morning...or Good Afternoon....or Good Eveningor whatever time of the day you take time to read our newsletter for information on happenings within our district of United Women in Faith. Recently I hosted a kind of mini retreat for Women in Faith of Davie County. This was the 49th Annual Meeting that started over 50 years ago. It is always held on the first Monday in June, beginning with a covered dish meal at 6pm followed by a program at 7pm. When covid hit we were unable to hold the meeting that year. Then the next year everyone was still not comfortable in gatherings, then the third year I contacted the host church that was to host the event and their church had decided to disaffiliate and that the women in the church decided to not to continue as a part of the UWFaith of our district.

I had been talking to a few ladies in our county who were sad that the tradition was not continuing.....so I decided to get the word out and let it be known that we would continue with our mini retreat of Davie County women as usual on the first Monday night of June. I used my church as the host church, and we had a small number of women to attend with the covered dish meal, and program where I used Barbara Campbell's speech at Lake Junaluska that highlighted the Legacy Fund that was launched to permanently endow a fund to continue the work of United Methodist Women for years to come to aid women, children, and youth around the world. That \$60 million dollar goal seemed like an awful lot to achieve, but as we have recently learned.....we are almost there. Back to our little mini retreat.....after that meeting a host church was named to hold our retreat for the next year...Wesley Chapel UMC. They had a really good turn out of nearly 60 attending and the program was a speaker from the Crossnore Children's Home which the Wesley Chapel Church had supported for many years. After that meeting, the First UMC Church in Mocksville agreed to host the meeting for the next year (2025).

Again, I volunteered my church to be host for 2026. We had a good covered dish meal, and a meaningful program about special needs adults in our community and county and the services provided by Impact of the Piedmont thru the group homes, and apartments that some of those adults lived in with on site supervision, and services that the adults who lived with their families could take part in. While our mini retreat is not what it used to be, we are still able as a group of Women In Faith to make a difference thru the various mission opportunities that we choose. UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH of the Yadkin Valley District is a wonderful way for women to join together in fellowship and support the missions that has been a part of us for many years. Between covid and disaffiliation we are not as many as we have been, but we are still strong and doing what we can to attract younger women to be a part of this marvelous organization. The Davie County Mini Retreat for women started from one young woman's trip to Lake Junaluska that proved to be the launch of a yearly event that will celebrate 50 years in 2027. We are not as strong as we once were.....for example - in the year 2007 our yearly event was attended by 125 women representing 16 churches in our little county. Our mini retreat hopes to attract those women who had once been a part of a circle, or group, and enjoyed the fellowship of women in mission to again be a part of us who meets once a year. That is also what we as the district United Women in Faith of Yadkin Valley are hoping and trying to do as well. Invite someone to come to our district events....invite them over and over again, until they finally decide to try us out. Wouldn't it be great if we could begin to increase our number of members and units. Let them know....a small unit in a church is just as important as a large unit in numbers. Remember, it all started with 2 women, who invited a few other women, who then invited more women.....and at one time our numbers were HUGE. Let's aim high and shoot for our numbers to increase.

Ok....off my soap box. DON'T FORGET.....ANNUAL MEETING IS COMING UP IN AUGUST AT FIRST UMC CHURCH IN MOCKSVILLE. Hope to see you there. Remember to return those baby bottles you picked up at the tea.

Barbara Crotts, Vice President Yadkin Valley District UWFaith



Greetings Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous and continuing support of Mission Giving and The Legacy Endowment Fund! Thank you for your generous donations on our Day of Giving, March 23, 2026 celebrating 157 years in mission, we raised over \$300,000.00. I am so excited, we are so close to our goal of \$60 million about \$4 million away. I was honored to attend the Legacy Banquet at Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana in May. United Women in Faith of the Western North Carolina Conference were honored with award for having the most people joining the 1869 Society we tied with Texas and New York, that is saying something about the amazing women in our conference.

Your mission giving supports the current work of United Women in Faith around the world, making a difference in the lives of women, children and youth. As a permanently invested endowment, the Legacy Fund will be an ongoing source of income, providing the assurance that our important work will continue.

Our conference cumulative giving to the Legacy Fund through December 31, 2025, is \$574,895.36, third in the nation, that is something to celebrate.

You may give anytime during the year by making a one-time gift or sign up for monthly giving. Every gift you make regardless of the amount makes an impact for generations to come. There are many ways to give to the Legacy Endowment Fund. We now have three giving societies, The Legacy Builder giving \$18.69 a month or more, Friends of Legacy major gift pledges of \$5,000.00 or more and 1869 Society planned giving donors.

Ways to Give to the Legacy Endowment Fund

- Make a gift to the Legacy Fund **through your local unit United Methodist Women / United Women in Faith treasurer.**

Use our [Western North Carolina Legacy Fund Commitment Form](#)

Online on the national office website at uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/

- **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, M-F)
- **Text** Legacy150 to 41444
- **By check:** note "Legacy Fund" in memo and mail to: United Women in Faith, Church Center for the United Nations, Attn: Legacy, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Other methods include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. If you are interested in making a gift like this, contact the national office at 212-870-3705.

Donating to the Legacy Endowment Fund will help to empowering and improving the lives of women, children, and youth locally and around the world.

Together we can do it! Building our Legacy together! We are Unstoppable!

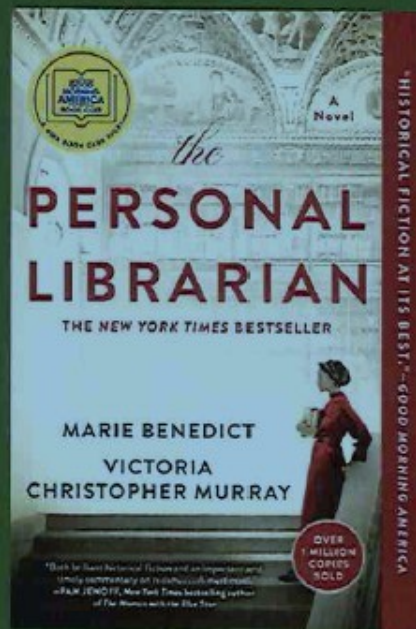
Blessings. Rhita



YOU ARE INVITED TO



BOOK CLUB MEETING



8

AUGUST

In 1905, Belle is hired by financier J.P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and art for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. She becomes a formidable, world-renowned expert in the field, outbidding museums and negotiating with kings to build Morgan's world-class collection.

10:00 AM ON ZOOM

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://WNCCUMW.ORG/DISTRICTEVENTS/](https://wnccumw.org/districtevents/)



2026 Yadkin Valley District United Women in Faith

Nurturing Partners

Ardmore — Rhita Newcomb	Mt. Pleasant, Boonville --Gail Caudle
Brooks Temple — Cathy Smith	
Brookstown —Jean Wall	Mt. Tabor —Mary Jo Brewer
Bunker Hill —Debra Lawson	New Home —Gail Caudle
Canaan —Cathy Smith	Oak Forest —Montessa Thomas
Centenary, WS —Mary Jo Brewer	Oak Grove —Barbara Crotts
Centenary, Clemmons —Ashley Perdue	Pine Grove, WS —Suzanne Cepello
Central, Thomasville —Ashley Perdue	Pisgah — Berthina Thomas
Concord, Mocksville —Montessa Thomas	Saints Home —Nancy Norton
Dobson — Jamie Smith	Sedge Garden —Jean Wall
Faith —Rhita Newcomb	Sharon —Brenda Tuttle
First, Mocksville — Barbara Crotts	Sherwood Forest —Mary Jo Brewer
First, Pilot Mountain Gail Caudle	Shiloh, Germanton —Debra Lawson
Harmony Grove —Jamie Smith	St. Andrews —Janet Sizemore
Lewisville —Leslie Porter	St. James —Gail Caudle
Level Cross —Montessa Thomas	St. Paul WS — Berthina Thomas
Liberty — Barbara Crotts	Stokesbury —Debra Lawson
Main Street — Debra Lawson	Stony Knoll —Jamie Smith
Memorial —Leslie Porter	Trinity —Rhita Newcomb
Morris Chapel —Rhita Newcomb	Union Ridge —Jean Wall
Mt. Carmel —Cathy Smith	Wesley Chapel —Barbara Crotts
	Yadkin College —Ashley Perdue
	New Beginnings —Rhita Newcomb



2026 YADKIN VALLEY EXECUTIVE TEAM

President Jamie Smith – jamiesmith95@yahoo.com
738 Key Road, Ararat, NC 27007 – 336-830-6583

Vice President Barbara Crotts – imacrotts@yadtel.net
169 Rag Road, Mocksville, NC 27028 336-940-8001

Secretary Nancy Norton – snwnort@gmail.com
6111 Winview Heights Street, Clemmons, NC 27012 336-268-7878

Treasurer Ashley Perdue – bellsash5861@gmail.com
4 Charter Place, Thomasville, NC 27360 336-413-3942

MEI Brenda Tuttle – a.kirkman416@gmail.com
145 Helsabeck Road, King, NC 27021 336-406-3314

Spiritual Growth – Berthina Thomas - berthinathomas@windstream.net
4745 Rockwell Place Drive, Tobaccoville, NC 27050 336-671-1954

Social Action – Aton Thomas - Tonitiger544@gmail.com
1352 Midway School Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27107 336-816-5481

MNO – Leslie Porter – leslie.porter@bofa.com
504 Pontiac Drive, Thomasville, NC 27360 336-686-5102

Communications - Jean Wall 10607jean@gmail.com
1930 Morgan Trace Dr. Winston-Salem, NC 27127 865-705-3959

Program Resources Montessa Thomas – montessat66@gmail.com
1352 Midway School Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27107 336-764-5073 cell 336-995-1074

Leadership Development - Debra Lawson– debralawson083@gmail.com
00103 Bracken Lane, King, NC 27021 336-816-3006

Historian – Janet Sizemore—janetsize@hotmail.com
5120 Rockhill, East Bend, NC 27108 336-251-2992

Parliamentarian - Suzanne Cepello—suzannecepello@msn.com
200 Stewart Road, Pilot Mtn., NC 27041 831-225-8985

Nominations Chair - Gail Caudle – gacaudle01@windstream.net
7490 Ridge Road, Tobaccoville, NC 27050 336-705-9462

Nominations - Mary Jo Brewer – mbrewer1227@gmail.com
1120 Martin Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 336-403-1871

Nominations – Cathy Smith catsmith146@gmail.com
146 Brencomb Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27107 336-413-1415

Nominations—Rhita Newcomb—rhita kay@yahoo.com
5569 Farm House Trail, Winston Salem, NC 27103 336-688-0365

2026 District Calendar of Events for Yadkin Vallely

United Women in Faith

- Aug. 29 Annual Celebration, First UMC, Mocksville 9 to noon
- Oct. 24 Energize, Enlighten, & Educate, Trinity UMC, King, NC , 9:00 to noon.

District Website: [Yadkin Valley | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)

Resources: [District Events | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)

Year end report forms can be found here, in pdf and word.

District Facebook page:

[Yadkin Valley District United Women in Faith | Facebook](#)

(note: this is a public page. You do not need an account to see this)

2026 Calendar of Events for WNCC United Women in Faith

Aug. 21-22 Mission u Catholic Conference Center, **All UWFaith Members**

Sept. 12 Annual Celebration (location TBD) **All UWFaith Members**

Oct 17 Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers
(Virtual/in person) (location TBD)



[United Women in Faith | Love in Action](#)

Jean Wall

1930 Morgan Trace Drive

Winston Salem, NC 27127